

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 68

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to designate the week of May 2-9, 2021, as  
"Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week" in  
Tennessee.

WHEREAS, many people with serious chronic mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, severe depression, or gastrointestinal disorders, including gastroparesis, nausea, and vomiting, require treatment with medications that work as dopamine receptor blocking agents (DRBAs), including antipsychotics; and

WHEREAS, while ongoing treatment with these medications can be very helpful, and even lifesaving, for many people it can also lead to tardive dyskinesia (TD); and

WHEREAS, tardive dyskinesia is a movement disorder that is characterized by random, involuntary, and uncontrolled movements of different muscles in the face, trunk, and extremities; and

WHEREAS, tardive dyskinesia can develop months, years, or decades after a person starts taking DRBAs and even after they have discontinued use of those medications. Not everyone who takes a DRBA develops TD, but if it develops, it is often permanent; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that over 500,000 Americans suffer from tardive dyskinesia. According to the National Alliance for Mental Illness, one in every four patients receiving long-term treatment with antipsychotic medication will experience tardive dyskinesia; and

WHEREAS, years of difficult and challenging research have resulted in recent scientific breakthroughs, with two new treatments for tardive dyskinesia having been approved by the United States Food and Drug Administration; and

WHEREAS, tardive dyskinesia is often unrecognized and patients suffering from the illness are commonly misdiagnosed. Regular screening for TD in patients taking DRBA medications is recommended by the American Psychiatric Association (APA); and

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee can raise awareness of tardive dyskinesia in the public and the medical community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby designate the week of May 2-9, 2021, as "Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week" in Tennessee and encourage every individual to become better informed about and aware of tardive dyskinesia.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.